

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: HAMDI'S REFORM DRIVE GATHERS SOME HEADWAY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OVER THE WEEKEND, PRESIDENT HAMDI'S PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO REFORM AND UPGRADE BOTH THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVT ADMINISTRATION IN THE YAR GAINED HEADWAY. IN SPEECH DELIVERED OCT 16 BEFORE SEVERAL THOUSAND HAYMA TRIBESMAN, HAMDI LAUNCHED STRONGEST ATTACK YET ON THE SHAYKHS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. MEANWHILE IN SANA, RECENTLY ESTABLISHED GOVT REFORM COMMITTEE DELIVERED SURPRISE FIRST RESOLUTION WHICH SUSPENDED THE OFTEN CORRUPT CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND INAUGURATED PROGRAM TO COMPLETELY REVAMT AND REMOLD COMMISSION INTO MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE GOVT ORGAN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPEECH DELIVERED OCT 16 AT ROAD DEDICATION IN MARKEDLY TRIBAL HAYMA AREA (ABOUT 30 MILES WEST OF SANA), PRES HAMDI SCORED THE WORN AND AT TIMES FRAUDULENT METHODS USED BY TRADITIONAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP TO SECURE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER.

3. HAMDI'S LANGUAGE AGAINST THE SYAYKHS WAS BLUNT AND CERTAINLY HARSHEST HEARD TO DATE. DECLARING THAT ALL THE SHAYKHS CARED ABOUT WAS FILLING THEIR STOMACHES

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AND LINING THEIR POCKETS, HAMDI SAID MOST TRIBAL

LEADERS NEGLECTED THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THEIR AREAS. HE CALLED ON TRIBESMEN TO ABANDON PETTY FEUDS AND NARROW OUTLOOK WHICH GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED TRIBAL POLITICS AND TO HELP YEMEN GROW AND PROSPER AS POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY STRONGER NATION.

4. IN SANA, THE SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ANNOUNCED FIRST RESOLUTION OCT 16. FORMAL DECREES THIS WEEK SUSPENDED ENTIRE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND PLACED ITS 112 MEMBERS ON HALF SALARY. ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK CONCERNED SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED INCLUDES TWO MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BUREAU FOR BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED MALPRACTICES BY COMMISSION MEMBERS AND TO REORGANIZE A NEW DIWAN AL-MUWADHAFIIN AL-AM (GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYEES) WHICH WILL SUPPOSEDLY MORE EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT FORMER COMMISSION'S FUNCTIONS.

5. SUPREME COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY HAMDI SHORTLY AFTER SEPT 26 REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS UNDER DIRECTION MIN INFO AHMED DAHMASH. COMMITTEE GIVEN POWER TO APPOINT SUB-COMMITTEES IN ALL GOVT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS AND IN ALL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY. NONE TO DATE HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED. COMMITTEE WILL PUBLISH OWN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, "AL-TASIH" (THE REFORM) FIRST ISSUE DUE OCT 19.

6. COMMENT: PUBLIC REACTION TO BOTH CREATION OF SUPREME COMMITTEE AND TO SUSPENSION CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MIXED. SOME PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE INCLUSION AS MEMBERS PEOPLE LIKE MININFO DAHMASH OR DIRECTOR OF TOURISM MUHAMMAD ABD AL-MALIK, NEITHER OF WHOSE HANDS NECESSARILY CLEAN. CONTENT OF FIRST RESOLUTION PUBLISHED ATTACKED AS BEING FAR TOO HARSH WITH ALL THE EARMARKS OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS GIMMICK OR EVEN VENGEANCE RATHER THAN REFORM CAMPAIGN. WHILE MOST AGREE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION GENUINELY CORRUPT, MANY GOVT EMPLOYEES--FEARFUL OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THEIR MINISTRIES--FEEL INVESTIGATION COULD HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITHOUT FORMAL SUSPENSION AND WITHOUT PUNISHING EMPLOYEES ACROSS-THE-BOARD IN ADVANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUDGMENT.

7. COMMITTEE IS HOWEVER CLEZYLY INTENDED TO SHOW THAT GOVERNMENT LEADERS DO NOT RPT NOT CONDONE CORRUPTION AND WILL EXTIRPATE IT. LEADERS WANT ALSO MAKE GOVT MORE RESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE, SO PEOPLE FEEL THEIR COMPLAINTS ARE HEARD AND ACTED UPON. FINALLY, IT IS ANOTHER DEVICE TO AONTROL GOVT APPARATUS AND AS SUCH

IT RANKS WITH DEVELOPMENT BOARDS AND NEW MAJLIS
ELECTIONS AS DEVICE TO STRENGTHEN GOVT
AND RE ESTABLISH IT ON DIFFERENT CO
ETITUTIONAL BASIS.

HOWEVER, UNLESS HAMDI CAN DEMONSTRATE REFORM CAMPAIGN WILL BE
CONDUCTED FAIRLY AND BY MEN OF IMPECCABLE CREDENTIALS, HAMDI'S
CRVDIBILITY AS EFFECTIVE REFORMER WILL UNDZIBTEDLY BE UNDERMINED,
THUS PROVIDING VALUABLE AMMUNITION TO DETRACTORS AND OPPONENTS
ON BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT.
SCOTES

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